



**Testimony  
Kathryn Dube  
Connecticut Council of Small Towns  
Before the Energy Committee  
March 7, 2013**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment in *support of HB-6360, AN ACT CONCERNING IMPLEMENTATION OF CONNECTICUT'S COMPREHENSIVE ENERGY STRATEGY.*

Given the ongoing budget challenges facing the state and municipalities, Connecticut must help small towns utilize energy programs and new technologies to reduce costs and deliver programs and services more efficiently. New programs, such as Energy Savings Performance Contracts and Virtual Net Metering, can assist towns in significantly reducing costs without incurring high, upfront capital costs.

COST therefore supports the provisions in the bill which will expand opportunities for municipalities to reduce electric costs through the use of virtual net metering, which allows surplus production from the generator to offset other metered accounts that are not connected to the generator. By expanding the maximum size of the generating unit that can take advantage of virtual net metering, and potentially increasing the value of the electric bill credit that participating customers receive, HB-6360 will allow more municipalities to participate and achieve costs savings.

COST also **supports provisions in Section 5** which allow municipalities to lease the renewable resource or enter into a long-term contract for it and qualify for virtual net metering. Smaller communities may not have the resources to purchase generation equipment but may have opportunities to lease equipment to reduce costs and improve energy efficiency.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment in support of the bill.